

Catholics and the English Protestants in Persia, who are all taking measures to preserve their influence and to win in their proselytizing. That the worst feature, however, is that the local Persian authorities and the Mohammedan clergy are expressing their dissatisfaction at the arrival of the Russian missionaries, who are "quite erroneously" supposed of being the instruments of a Russian foreign policy of expansion into Persian territory. The Persians, it is said, have been induced to assume this hostile attitude and to displace the Nestorians from going over to the Russians by some outside influence. That there are even rumours threatening the safety of the ex-Nestorian Bishop Marjona. At the same time, although the writer repudiates the insinuation that the Russian mission has anything in view beyond the spiritual welfare of the Nestorian Christians, he yet advises the Persians to make use of it to strengthen their friendly relations with Russia, to draw by its geographical position and present condition. It requires little penetration to discover that Persia, and probably in other countries, too, there is a political purpose behind the proselytizing movement of the Russian Church. It is quite possible the Russian Church itself may be indifferent to winning proselytizing, for it has an ample field for its labours amongst its own enormous flock, but the Russian Government has not failed to perceive the advantages which may be derived from the presence of Russian missionaries in foreign Asiatic countries. The lesson taught by recent events in China has not been lost on the Russian Government. The murder or ill-treatment of a Christian missionary by an ignorant and incontinent Chinese mob has been enough to deprive China of a valuable portion of her territory. Why should not the same happen in Persia? This is a question the Russian Government must have asked itself, and hence the sudden and unusual energy of the Russian Church in the work of proselytizing. There is more chance in Persia, with its large local Mohammedan population, than in China, of outwitting the Chinese missionaries, so the Russian Government will begin opportunities of proselytizing. By instructing the Russian missionaries to carry on a vigorous proselytizing it would not be difficult to create occasions for the interference of the Russian Government, and in the execution of such diplomacy the Russian has nothing to learn. But it is very doubtful whether the Russian Government is acting wisely in changing, as it appears to have done, its policy in Asia with regard to the religious beliefs of the natives. It has been said that Russia has been able to assimilate her Asiatic subjects and make of them and the population of European Russia one people because the Russian Government has never attempted to interfere with the religious beliefs and customs of the Asiatic subjects, nor has she permitted the Russian Church to do so. Activities, therefore, have full confidence that although they may be absorbed into the great Russian nation they will still retain the beliefs and customs that they cherish. This will be charged, however, if Russian missionaries are to be left to their proselytizing purposes. But this is no business of ours. What is our business is to keep an eye on the evident designs Russia has on the integrity of the Kingdom of Persia.

ATTEMPTED RESCUE OF HWANG KUNG-TU.

FOREIGNERS ATTACK THE TAOTAI'S YAMEN AND ARE IGNOMINIOUSLY PUT TO FLIGHT.

SHANGHAI, October 17th. The fact that Kung Yu-wel had escaped from the British ship and had gone away from China under the British flag fired a party of foreigners, principally American citizens, to select this morning for an attempt to rescue Hwang Kung-tu, who is at present under arrest at the Taotai's Bureau for Foreign Affairs. Bubbling Well Road. The plan might have met with all the success its promoters most desired had they shown a little better front and had they been properly led. As it is they have done nothing more than make the matter merely ridiculous and have made the Chinese prisoners Hwang Kung-tu, much more dangerous, and given the Chinese officials more breathing time.

CONCERNING THE PLAN.

It would appear that a party of seven or eight men met in an hotel and discussed the position of Hwang Kung-tu, at present under arrest by Imperial command and who is detained at the Taotai's offices on the Bubbling Well Road. Waking up valourous they decided that they would go in a body and rescue the unhappy prisoner, taking him into Shanghai and thence to Hongkong, possibly by the *Coptic*, leaving here to-day. Accordingly between 2 and 3 o'clock this morning this well-meant but ill-organized band proceeded to the Yamen and marched up the Avenue where they were somewhat surprised to meet the City and Mixed Court Magistrates and other officials all in their robes and surrounded by a guard of thirty of the Taotai's soldiers as if expecting their arrival.

THE PLOT LEAKED OUT.

There is an underground telegraph at work all the time among the Chinese which they themselves know very well, but it did not occur to the gallant band that the mere fact of a cordon of Municipal Chinese detectives surrounding the Taotai's Yamen, together with a stalwart and uncompromising Sikh policeman posted at the gates, had put the officials on their guard, and that they were prepared for an attempted kidnapping of Hwang. Consequently when the rescuers made their appearance they did not wholly take the Chinese by surprise. Mr. Cheng, the Mixed Court Magistrate, at once telephoned to the Central Police Station for assistance, stating that five foreigners were attempting to forcibly enter the Yamen. But his message apparently never reached the police, for he got no reply, he says.

NO RESISTANCE BY NATIVE SOLDIERS.

Whether the Taotai had given his soldiers orders to protect the Yamen at all hazards we do not know, whether indeed they had ammunition for their rifles is very questionable, but they certainly showed no resistance to the foreigners, whose determined attitude struck terror into the hearts of every one of them. When asked by the Mixed Court Magistrate, a stout English speaker, what they wanted they said:

"WE HAVE COME TO RESCUE HWANG."

Mr. Cheng pointed out to them that this was not the way to do it. They persisted in their demand to see Hwang and made it very clear that they intended to carry him off. The Chinese soldiers were by this time trembling with fear, and so were all the Chinese servants looking on. What was to be done. If not admitted

THE FOREIGNERS THREATENED TO BATTER IN THE DOORS.

It should be mentioned that they had no other weapons than sticks, but there was not one among the large crowd of natives who attempted to resist them or suggested that they should be bundled out of the grounds.

THE RAID THAT FAILED.

When it became evident that the threat of forcible entry would be put into execution, that the intractable foreigners had come for Hwang and would not be happy until they got him, that they were determined to seize him and bear him off and risk their own lives or any other less serious consequences so long as they succeeded, then some one among the Chinese remembered that Mr. W. V. Drummond had returned from Kailash only yesterday afternoon, and accordingly

he was sent for. Mr. Drummond, as is generally known, is legal adviser to the Nanjing Government, and although such matters as defending the Taotai's Yamen against invaders cannot by any stretch of imagination be considered as coming within his duties, he at once rose from his bed in response to an urgent request for his immediate attendance at the Yamen. By the time he got there the crowd of Chinese had largely increased, and consternation was written on every native face. The scene was peculiar, and also ridiculous. The broad verandah was packed with coolies and soldiers; on the steps, arrayed in all their gorgeous robes were the magistrates and many officials; the soldiers were there too, obviously overpowered by the situation. On the gravel path at the foot of the steps were four foreigners—whose names have been given us. There were innumerable paper lanterns; colour and light; silk and satin and glittering jewels. On the one hand was a small Chinese; on the other only four foreigners. Here, surely, was material for a magnificent historical picture. But the sequel—Well, the less said of that the better for foreigners in China.

MR. DRUMMOND INTERROGATED.

When Mr. Drummond arrived he at once asked: "Well gentlemen, who are you and what do you want?" Then the trembling knees of the native soldiers became rigid and the discordant wailing of tongues was silenced.

"We have orders from the Empress Dowager to take Hwang away from here," said one.

"What do you want gentlemen?" he repeated.

"WE WANT TO RESCUE HWANG,"

was the answer.

"Who are you?"

"Never you mind," rang out the voice of one of the noble band, "We want Hwang and will have him."

Mr. Drummond, who is a consistent believer in the doing of all things decently and in order, asked: "By whose authority do you come here?"

"We have orders from the Empress Dowager to take Hwang away from here," said one.

A more ridiculous reply could not have been given when it is considered that their quest was detailed at the Bureau for Foreign Affairs by order of the Empress Dowager, and that the Chinese officials were held personally responsible for his safe keeping.

Mr. Drummond then pointed out that they had no more right to invade the Taotai's premises than to go into any other private house on Bubbling Well Road.

One of the party made answer: "We saw the gate open and walked in."

But this was no answer to Mr. Drummond's question; and, seeing that he was determined, quite cool and collected, they retired to a convenient grass plot and held a whispered conference. Then they returned and Mr. Drummond again questioned their authority. They replied that:

THEIR CAPTAIN WOULD EXPLAIN.

"Who is your captain?" said Mr. Drummond.

"Let me see him and I will hear what he has to say."

On his way he here soon enough "cried a member of the band."

Mr. Drummond's right to interfere was frequently called into question, but we are unable to learn his answers, or even if he made any answer at all.

A good deal of bluster then followed and another confab took place, the rescuers backing further and further off into a shabby, finally leaving the premises, greatly to the relief of the Chinese. Then presumably, Mr. Drummond went to bed.

THE VOLUNTEERS TO BE CALLED OUT.

The Municipal Council has also taken action in the matter and intends preventing the possible removal of Hwang to the native city or elsewhere from the Yamen. Besides the active detachments, the Sikh and foreign police who have been on guard in uniform and in reserve clothes, it has been proposed to call out the Volunteers to oppose the removal of the captive and to prevent him being spirited away along any of the Municipal roads. Whether this is a wise proceeding or not for our readers to judge for themselves. The Volunteers are, we have always understood, called out for the protection of foreigners principally women and children, and not for service in Chinese affairs of this sort. If anything is to be done to rescue Hwang or any other political refugee it may be for the Foreign Minister to see, and if they choose to solicit the aid of the Volunteers through the Council the responsibility for any action would then rest with the various governments. Anyhow if anything is to be done at all, it is a thing that can be done without involving the sacrifice of several lives in order that the capture of a single man may be effected. The Volunteers will have to be conducted on several different lines from those pursued this morning when a few foreigners armed with sticks were able to terrorize Chinese bodyguard of thirty armed men, a band of officials and a mob of coolies only to be put to flight in their turn by a solitary Englishman who used no more powerful weapon than his tongue to cause them to turn tail and slink out like whipped dogs.

The whole affair might have furnished material for an epic, but as it is it has turned out too ridiculous for serious attention.—*Mercury*.

HWANG KUNG-TU PARDONED.

SHANGHAI, October 17th.

The band of swashbucklers who made such a ridiculous exhibition of themselves at the Taotai's Foreign Office yesterday morning, need not have been so busy in attempting to rescue Hwang Kung-tu, for last night a telegram was received from Peking via Nanking by the Taotai stating that the charge of harbouring Kung Yu-wel, which had been preferred against Hwang, was not to be proceeded with, and that he was to be considered as no longer under arrest.

It is stated that Hwang is a personal friend of the Taotai and he was his guest when the order for his detention arrived here. Whether he will be allowed to proceed to Canton, his home we are unable to say. At any rate he has been officially set at liberty.—*Mercury*.

NOTANDA.

CALENDAR.

Meteorological means based on ten years' observations to 1898.

Barometer 29.818

Thermometer 80.1

Humidity 77

Rainfall 5.8

TO-DAY.

WEATHER REPORT.

Barometer 29.82

Thermometer 81

Humidity 84

Rainfall 4.6

TO-DAY.

Tuesday, 18th October, 1898.

Chinese—1st of 9th moon of 24th year of Kwong-shu.

High water—Morning 11hr. 10min.

Afternoon 10hr. 7min.

Low water—Morning 4hr. 10min.

Afternoon 4hr. 4min.

ANNIVERSARIES.

1836—The Victory issued orders for the expulsion of twelve foreign opium merchants from Canton.

1860—The Imperial Summer Palace at Peking burnt by the British forces.

1875—British barque *Roads* destroyed by fire at Manila.

1892—At a meeting of the Chartered Mercantile Bank of India, London, and China a scheme of reconstruction was approved.

1896—Collision at Woonung between the steamships *Wingyang* and *Oscarajah*.

1897—The Japanese Battleship *Fuji* arrived from England.

TO-MORROW.

Wednesday, 19th October, 1898.

Chinese—2nd of 9th moon of 24th year of Kwong-shu.

Moon—Maximum Declination S. 10hr. p.m.

High water—Afternoon 10hr. 13min.

and 10hr. 43min.

Low water—Morning 4hr. 35min.

Afternoon 4hr. 9min.

ANNIVERSARIES.

1848—Hongkong and Canton Steam Packet Co. established.

1849—Great fire in Hongkong.

1861—Great typhoon at Formosa.

1865—Hongkong, Canton and Macao Steamboat Co. formed.

1879—Disastrous explosion at the arsenal, Tientsin, Formosa.

1893—Shanghai Cotton Mill burnt.

SHIPPING AND MAIL NEWS.

MAILS DUE:

American (*City of Peking*) 29th inst.

THE P. & O. steamer *Bornio* from China, arrived in London yesterday afternoon, the 17th inst.

THE N. P. S. S. Co's steamer *Tacoma* arrived at Tacoma from Hongkong and Japan on the 14th inst.

THE N. P. S. S. Co's steamer *Mogul* arrived at Portland from Hongkong and Japan on the 16th inst.

HONGKONG AND WHAMPOA DOCK RETURNS.

Indra Poon to Kowloon Dock.

Ningchow " "

Pronto " "

Formosa " "

Hongkong " "

Windsor Castle " "

Agnes " "

Memmothshier " "

Sabine Rickmers " "

Paklong " "

Ashlon " "

Dona " "

St. Paul Aberdeen

PASSED THE CANAL.

OUTWARD—Shant Sept. 13th; *Maxagon* 16th; *Fallodon* 18th; *St. Oberg* 20th; *Parifan* 22nd; *Merfinkthier*, *Lamox* 27th; *Ceylon*, *Margolis* 28th; *Edinbold* 30th; *Banlawat*, *Oceanian*, *Orestis*, *Glentworth* Oct. 1st; *Volat*, *Slam* 7th; *Enargis*, *Melbourne*, *Katsow* 11th.

INWARD—*Prussia*, *Salasta*, *Prometheus* Oct. 7th.

THE GREAT VALUE OF SCOTT'S Emulsion of Pure Cod Liver Oil with Hypophosphites in Wasting Diseases is shown by the accompanying statement from Dr. C. Freeman, Sydney, Aust.:

"Having been a great sufferer from pulmonary attacks and gradually wasting away for the past two years, it is with great pleasure to testify that the above medicine has given me great relief, and cheerfully recommend it to all suffering in a similar way to myself. In addition I would say that it is very pleasant to take."

Any Chemist can supply it. Sole Agents for Hongkong and the Far East of China—Watkins & Co., Hongkong.

WANTED.

WE pay highest cash prices per hundred for Postage Stamps of China, British Colonies, &c., either used or unused. Rare old stamps especially desired and for which best prices will be paid. Remittances always first made after receipt of consignments. KOLONA STAMP CO., DAYTON Ohio, U.S.A. [1162]

THE GREAT EASTERN AND CALEDONIAN GOLD MINING CO., LIMITED.

IN accordance with this Company's Articles of Association, INTEREST at the rate of 8 per Cent. per Annum is being charged on all unpaid CALLS.

LUTGENS, EINSMANN & CO., General Agents, Hongkong, 3rd October, 1898. [1189]

CARBOLINEUM-AJENARIUS USED FOR OVER 25 YEARS. With the Oldest Success.

Thoroughly reliable preservative for Wood and Stone against White Ants, Decay, Fungus Rot and Dampness.

Sole Agents for China, LUTGENS, EINSMANN & Co. Hongkong, 11th September, 1898. [116]

CHS. J. GAUPP & CO., CHRONOMETER, WATCH, and CLOCK, MAKERS, JEWELLERS, SILVER, SMITHS, and OPTICIANS, CHARTS and BOOKS, NAUTICAL INSTRUMENTS.

Sole Agents for Louis Audemars' Watches awarded the highest Prizes at every Exhibition; and for Volkmann and Sohn's CELEBRATED OPERA GLASSES, MARINE GLASSES and SPYGLASSES. Nos. 54 & 56, Queen's Road Central, 140

LEVY HERMANOS, DIAMOND MERCHANTS, JEWELLERS and WATCHMAKERS.

Sole Agents in the East for the amalgamated CLEMENT, HUMBER and GLADIATOR CO., LD., DUNLOP TYRES BICYCLES—PRICE—\$185. A special reliable Watch made for this Climate. Quality—\$16. Quality—\$12. 10, QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL, Opposite the Telegraph Office, 41

Intimations.

The List will CLOSE at NOON on SATURDAY, the 22nd October, 1898.

THE SHANGHAI FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

To be incorporated under the Companies' Act, Hongkong, whereby the liability of each Shareholder is limited to the amount of his Shares.

CAPITAL: Tls. 1,000,000.

In 50,000 fully paid up Shares of Tls. 20 each, of which the first issue of 25,000 Shares are now offered for subscription.

PAYABLE AS FOLLOWS.

Tails 500 on application.

" 500 on allotment.

" 500 on 1st March, 1899.

" 500 on 1st June, 1899.

Tails 2000

DIRECTORS:

B. A. CLARKE, Esq., of Messrs. HOPKINS, DUNN & Co.

JAMES S. FEARON, Esq., of Messrs. FEARON, DANIEL & Co.

S. A. HARDON, Esq., of Messrs. E. D. SASSON & Co.

CHUN FAT-TING, Esq., of Messrs. CHUN FAT-TING & Co.

MASSER CHUN FAT-TING, Esq., of Messrs. CHUN FAT-TING & Co.

W. CHING-CHONG, Esq., of Messrs. CHING-CHONG & Co.

CHU PAO-SAN, Esq., of Messrs. SHING YUE & Co.

BANKERS.

THE HONGKONG & SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION.

SOLICITORS:

Messrs. JOHNSON, STOKES & MASTER.

SECRETARY:

C. D. KEFF, Esq.

TEMPORARY OFFICES:

22, KIANGSE ROAD, SHANGHAI.

PROSPECTUS.

1. The enormous volume of Fire Insurance business now transacted in Shanghai, is of itself, sufficient reason for the formation of a new Local Company.

2. The opening up of China to Railways, the establishment of numerous industrial enterprises, and the ever increasing native and foreign trade, must be followed by a corresponding increase in the demand for insurance against Fire.

3. The probable extension of the Foreign Settlements in Shanghai, the opening of Woonung and other new Treaty Ports, as also the increase of territory ceded to Foreign Nations, should be followed by a large addition to properties requiring insurance.

4. Two very successful Offices, domiciled in Hongkong, have for many years justly commanded a large share of the Fire Insurance business in China, but they are unable to satisfy the demand, and consequently a large number of Fire risks are placed with European and American Companies. The shares of the "Hongkong Fire Insurance Company, Limited," with \$10 paid up, are now quoted at \$330, and those of the "China Fire Insurance Company, Limited," with \$10 paid up, are quoted at \$95. The success of these two old Companies forms the best encouragement to investors who are willing to take shares in the new one.

5. The Chinese now thoroughly recognize the necessity of Fire Insurance, and as they are amongst the largest owners of properties and merchants at Shanghai and at most of the Treaty Ports, the "Shanghai Fire Insurance Co., Ltd." will, it is expected, receive a large measure of support from them. This expectation is indeed assured by the co-operation of the three Chinese gentlemen who join the Board.

6. It is proposed to act in concert with the other Fire Companies as regards rates, so long as the Directors are assured of the general adherence to Tariffs. It may be advanced by some insurers, that the present rates are somewhat high, but the experience of many years has taught all Fire Offices, that a proper and adequate charge must be made, if the Company is to be permanently prosperous, and if shareholders are to receive regular and substantial dividends.

7. It is further proposed that the subdivision of profits shall be, as far as possible, on the lines followed by the existing Local Companies, viz., that after payment of such dividends as may be recommended by the Board of Directors, the residue shall be appropriated towards the creation of a Reserve Fund, and to be returned to contributing shareholders.

8. No promotion money has been, or will be, paid.

9. Where no allotment is made, the deposit will be returned in full in exchange for Backers' receipt but when any shares less than the number applied for are allotted, the balance of the deposit will be credited to the sum to be paid on allotment.

10. The Shareholders' liability is strictly limited.

11. Prospectuses and Forms of Application for shares can be obtained at the Company's temporary Office, 22, Kiangse Road, Shanghai or from the Bank of China & Company at Shanghai Hongkong, and the Treaty Ports of China and Japan.

Satishal, 1st October, 1898. [1249]

NOTICE.

NOTICE is hereby given, that we have transferred as from the 1st of July, 1898, to the

OSTASIATISCHE HANDELS-GESELLSCHAFT.

(East Asiatic Trading Company) of HAMBURG all our business as carried on in HONGKONG and CHINA with the assets and liabilities thereof.

HARLING, BUSCHMANN & MENZEL.

Hongkong, 23rd September, 1898.

REFERRING to above notice we have as from the 1st of July, 1898, opened a branch of our business in HONGKONG and CHINA and have appointed Mr. G. HARLING as General Manager thereof, and authorized Mr. A. BUNE to sign per procuration at HONGKONG and Mr. M. BORNKESSEL to sign per procuration at CANTON.

OSTASIATISCHE HANDELS-GESELLSCHAFT, (East Asiatic Trading Company.)

Hongkong, 23rd September, 1898. [1136]

WANTED.

TO rent a FURNISHED ROOM, for single gentleman. Terms moderate from 1st September.

Apply by letter to

M.S. c/o Hongkong Telegraph Office. Hongkong, 30th August, 1898. [1042]

WANTED.

WANTED Indoor MANAGER for Hongkong and ASSISTANTS for Shanghai and Singapore Houses.

W. ROBINSON & Co. Hongkong, 14th October, 1898. [1198]

Intimations.

ANTI CORROSIVES

ANTI FOULINGS

MANUFACTORY

OIL PAINTS and COLOUR-WASH

